

MAR 1952

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 SECURITY INFORMATION
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
 INFORMATION FROM
 FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT

CD NO.

STAT

COUNTRY China

DATE OF
INFORMATION 1952 - 1953

SUBJECT Economic - Fishing, marine products

DATE DIST. 15 Jun 1953

HOW
PUBLISHED Daily newspapersWHERE
PUBLISHED Canton, Ho-fai

NO. OF PAGES 2

DATE
PUBLISHED 29 Dec 1952, 28 Feb 1953

LANGUAGE Chinese

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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INFORMATION ON FISHING INDUSTRY IN CHINA, 1952

[Summary: The fishing industry of Kwangtung Province has ex-
 panded during the last 3 years. Offices of the Marine Products
 Company have been established in many coastal centers, money has
 been loaned, the cost of living has been kept down, and the price
 of fish stabilized. In support of fresh-water fish culture loans
 have been made, minnows have been furnished, a fishermen's co-
 operative has been established and production has greatly increased.

Production of marine products in China is estimated to be more
 than 11 billion catties (one catty equals 1.33 pounds); production
 of fresh-water fish is now more than 3 billion catties per year.]

PROGRESS OF KWANGTUNG FISHING INDUSTRY 1950 - 1952 -- Canton, Nan-fang Jih-pao,
 29 Dec 52

During the last 3 years there has been great expansion of the fishing in-
 dustry in Kwangtung Province. The Kwangtung Marine Products Bureau has helped
 the industry by establishing everywhere marine products offices to control
 feudalistic oppression, buy up the fish, supply the fishing equipment needs,
 and loan money to the fishermen, thus stabilizing the price of fish.

A survey of some fishing ports showed that during the 13 years before
 liberation there has been a 50 percent decrease in the number of boats and
 the same percent in the number of men engaged in fishing. In one case the
 drop was even 91 percent.

During the last 3 years the total amount of money loaned to the fishermen
 in the whole province was 57,100,000,000 yuan. These loans solved the problem
 presented by the slack season, enabling fishermen to utilize that time for the
 repair of boats and nets.

- 1 -

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Fish markets have been established to stabilize the prices. The Kwangtung Marine Products Company has established branch offices in seven central localities, with markets in the fishing ports along the coast. In isolated ports and islands this company supplies what the fisherfolk need for livelihood and for production and thus keeps down the cost of living.

During the last 3 years, because of the activity of the Marine Products Company, the amount of capital required has been lessened. The cost of salt used in 1952 was 12 percent less per picul (one picul equals 133.33 pounds) than in 1951. Other necessities, such as hemp and bamboo hawsers, were much lower in price, so that the capital invested was decreased by 20 percent. On the other hand, the income of the fishermen increased 40 percent over what it was during the period of cutthroat competitive marketing.

In the fall of 1951, the Provincial Marine Products Bureau undertook all purchasing of fish and instituted rules for wholesale trade so that the price of fish was stabilized throughout the whole province.

In 1949, before liberation, the culture of fresh-water fish had greatly declined. The cultivation of minnows had declined 50 percent and that of pond fish 67 percent. To restore production, the people's government, in addition to its active conduct of the national marine products industry, organized a fishermen's cooperative for the catching and packing of fish, and loaned 3 billion yuan to the cooperative. The government also set up 12 centers for extensive minnow production, promoting such culture by furnishing minnows to stock the ponds. This lessened the amount of capital needed and standardized the quality of the minnows. By these means, the production of pond fish during the first year [1950] reached 150,000 tons, 33 percent of the highest record in history; the second year it reached 56 percent; and the third year 67 percent of the highest record.

In the coastal region, some of the fishermen have organized a producers' cooperative. The fishing industry has been quickly restored, reaching, the first year of the organization [1950], 46 percent of the highest previous record, the second year attaining 67 percent, and the third year 85 percent of that highest record. In 1953, it will be possible to equal the highest prewar record.

CHINA IS RICH IN SEA PRODUCTS -- Ho-fai, Anhwei Jih-pao, 28 Feb 53

The total annual marine products production in China is estimated to be 11,720,000,000 catties. Favorable temperature of the seas and an abundance of food combine to make fish plentiful. In the case of shell fish, not only is it possible to catch them in their natural habitat but the shallow water areas may be used for their artificial propagation. Fukien and Chekiang Provinces use 770,000 mou (one mou is one-sixth of an acre) of shallow sea area exclusively for raising shell fish. More than 500,000 piculs of dried oysters are sold abroad each year at a very high price.

Many varieties of seaweed are also produced. Before the war, kelp, which is especially rich in iodine, came largely from Japan but a quality superior to that of Japan is now produced in the Tsingtao area.

Fresh-water fish are abundant in the rivers, lakes, and ponds, producing annually 3,100,000,000 catties. Since the supply of minnows is plentiful, fish culture can be expanded. In 1952, the number of minnows supplied for fish culture in the whole nation was greater than the highest number before the war.

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- 2 -

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